AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of activating a <u>battery operated</u> computer by supplying power to put the computer into an active state, <u>the computer comprising a battery, a keyboard/power supply controller, a DC/DC converter, and main body operation units operated through the DC/DC converter,</u> the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

registering a password as a registered password;

keeping the ~~computer into~~<u>the keyboard/power supply controller in</u> a provisional state before the power is supplied to <u>the</u> main body operation units ~~in the computer~~ <u>with the main body operation units kept inactive through the DC/DC converter</u>;

performing user authentication in the provisional state by comparing and checking an input password with the registered password <u>by the keyboard/power supply controller</u>; and

starting the supply of power to the main body operation units on detecting coincidence between the input password and the registered password.

2. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

suspending the supply of power to the main body operation units on detecting incoincidence between the input password and the registered password.

3. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the password is compared and checked within a predetermined period of time.

4. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein when the password consists of more than one-digit symbol, the input password is compared and checked with the registered password digit by digit.

5. (Currently Amended)   A <u>battery operated</u> computer apparatus for supplying power <u>from a battery</u> to main body operation units as a result of authentication performed by comparing and checking an input password with a registered password, <u>the apparatus</u> comprising:

storage means for storing the registered password;

a <u>DC/DC converter</u> ~~power supplying means~~ for supplying power <u>from the battery</u> to the main body operation units in the computer <u>only when coincidence is detected between the input password and the registered password;</u> and

control means for controlling said power supplying means to start power supply <u>from the battery</u> to the main body operation units <u>through the DC/DC converter</u> when the input password ~~input~~ is matched with the registered password, and controlling said power supplying means to suspend power supply to the main body operation units when the input password is not matched with the registered password.

6. (Original)   The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said control means controls said power supplying means to start or suspend power supply to the main body operation units including a display, a central processing unit and a memory.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended)   A program storage medium storing thereon a program executed by a <u>battery-operated</u> computer, <u>the computer comprising a battery, a keyboard/power supply controller, a DC/DC converter, and main body operation</u>

units operated by the DC/DC converter, the program comprising the processing steps of:

registering a password as a registered password;

keeping the ~~computer~~ keyboard/power supply controller into a provisional state before the power is supplied from the battery to main body operation units ~~in the computer~~ with the main body operation units kept inactive through the DC/DC converter;

performing user authentication in the provisional state by comparing and checking an input password with the registered password by the keyboard/power supply controller; and

starting the supply of power from the battery to the main body operation units through the DC/DC converter on detecting coincidence between the input password and the registered password.

9. (Currently Amended)   The program storage medium according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

suspending the supply of power from the battery to the main body operation units through the DC/DC converter on detecting incoincidence between the input password and the registered password.

10. (Original)   The program storage medium according to claim 8, wherein said program storage medium stores a program for letting the computer further execute a processing step of comparing and checking the passwords within a fixed period of time, and a processing step of comparing and checking the passwords on a digit basis when each password consists of more than one-digit symbol.

11. (Currently amended)   A program ~~for use in being~~ executed by a battery operated computer comprising a battery, a keyboard/power supply controller, a DC/DC converter, and main body operation units operated through the DC/DC converter, the program comprising the steps of:

registering a password as a registered password;

keeping the ~~computer into~~ keyboard/power supply controller in a provisional state before the power is supplied to the main body operation units ~~in the computer~~ with the main body operation units kept inactive through the DC/DC converter;

performing user authentication in the provisional state by comparing and checking an input password with the registered password by the keyboard/power supply controller; and

starting the supply of power to the main body operation units by changing the provisional state on detecting coincidence between the input password and the registered password.

12. (Original)   The program storage medium according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

suspending the supply of power to the main body operation units on detecting incoincidence between the input password and the registered password.

13. (Currently Amended)   A battery operated computer apparatus for supplying power from a battery to main body operation units as a result of authentication performed by comparing and checking an input password with a registered password, comprising:

storage means for storing the registered password;

~~power supplying means~~ a DC/DC converter for supplying power <u>from the battery</u> to the main body operation units in the computer <u>only when coincidence is detected between the input password and the registered password;</u> and

control means for controlling said ~~power supplying means~~<u>DC/DC converter</u> to put the ~~power supplying means~~<u>DC/DC converter</u> into a provisional state in which the power is not supplied to all the main body operation units in the computer before the authentication is performed.

14. (Original)   The computer apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the control means executes the authentication in the provisional state.